

agreed to *sub silentio*, and the Bill reported.

The House adjourned at half-past ten o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 4th September, 1883.

Protection of Forest Timber—Distribution of Roads Boards Grant—Water-boring operations in the Eucla district—Fender Piles for Fremantle Railway Bridge—Gold Mining Regulations—Swan River Bar Regulations Repeal Bill—Estimates, 1884: further consideration of—Message (No. 34): Reply to Addresses; Appointment of Inspector of Works and Draftsman—Message (No. 35): Messrs. Lilly & Co.'s proposal re suppression of Overland Mail service to and from Albany—Reply to Message No. 34—Telephonic Exchange (Mr. B. C. Wood's communication)—Immigration Bill: first reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

PROTECTION OF FOREST TIMBER.

MR. SHENTON, with leave, without notice, asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands, whether he thought some regulation ought not to be framed or some steps taken to prevent the destruction of forest timber, by the sparks falling from traction engines employed by timber getters setting the bush on fire. He believed a great many young trees were destroyed in this way,—apart from the danger attendant upon these hush fires. If the use of spark catchers were insisted upon it might minimise the danger.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the question had not been previously brought under his notice officially, but now that his attention had been drawn to it he would see what could be done in the matter, and if any means could be devised to prevent this needless destruction of

our timber forests, by preventing such accidents as the hon. member alluded to, he would be glad to see such means adopted.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT FOR ROADS BOARDS.

MR. McRAE asked the Colonial Secretary how the Government proposed to apportion the vote of £15,000 placed on the Estimates for 1884, as a grant for the various Roads Boards.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the vote would be distributed upon a careful estimate of the claims of each district, and bearing in mind the principles which have hitherto governed its apportionment. A certain sum would be kept in hand to meet contingencies arising during the year, but the whole of the vote would be expended by the Boards.

WATER-BORING OPERATIONS IN THE EUCLA DISTRICT.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That a Select Committee be appointed to take into consideration certain communications received from the W. A. Pastoral Association and from the Eucla Land and Pastoral Associations, asking for grants in aid of water-boring operations, in which those associations propose to engage in the Eucla District, and to consider the policy generally of giving such grants in aid for the purpose of encouraging the search for artesian water; such committee to consist of the Colonial Secretary, the Director of Public Works, Mr. Brown, Mr. Venn, Mr. McRae, Mr. Marmion, and the mover." The hon. baronet said he had intended to move in this matter two or three years ago, but the financial condition of the colony was then so bad that he thought it would be better to wait. Large tracts of land had recently been taken up in the Eucla district by wealthy syndicates, and he should have thought they would have gone into water-boring operations without assistance from the Government. But it appeared from the papers laid on the table that they were anxious, some of

these companies, to obtain that assistance from Government which had been extended to pastoralists by the Governments of South Australia and New South Wales, and also Victoria. There could be no doubt that in many parts of this colony, if water could be procured, it would lead to an immense increase of settlement, and greatly add to the prosperity of the country. In view of the late period of the session, it had been his intention to have moved a general resolution asking the Government to take the matter into their consideration before the next session of Council, but, on the representations of other members of the House, he found that there was a general feeling in favor of dealing with the matter at present, and not incurring any delay. He had therefore moved for the appointment of this committee.

Mr. MARMION, in seconding the motion, said he thought the colony might very well be called upon to expend a certain amount in assisting the settlers, not only of the Eucla district, but also of other parts of the colony, in arriving at some reliable data as to water supply by means of artesian wells. In doing this we should only be following in the lead of the other colonies, the Governments of which had not only assisted others to make experiments, but had conducted experiments at their own expense. As to the Eucla district, he found we had derived within a very few years a revenue of something like £12,000 for rents from this district, and he did not think the colony had in return expended so many shillings in the district. If water should not be discovered, we should lose this revenue, or, on the other hand, if we did discover it, the probability was the revenue would be doubled. The discovery of artesian wells in other parts of the world had proved of great benefit, and very much enhanced the value of land, which previously was not only unadapted for cultivation or even for pastoral purposes, but which by reason of the discovery of water had been rendered available both for agricultural and pastoral purposes. He hoped the whole question would receive the attention of the Government during the recess.

The motion was then put and passed.

FENDER PILES FOR FREMANTLE RAILWAY BRIDGE.

Mr. BURT, in accordance with notice, moved that an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, asking him to be pleased to put upon the Estimates for 1884 a sum of money sufficient to provide fender piles to the Railway Bridge at Fremantle. The necessity for providing these piles had been shown within the last few days by the accident which happened to one of the river lighters in passing under the bridge. He thought it was very wrong indeed on the part of the Government in leaving the bridge in its present unprotected state.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. H. Thomas) said the Government had nothing to do with the navigation of the river. This bridge was not built in order to facilitate the river navigation in any way. At the same time these fender piles would be very useful no doubt, but they would cost at least £150 he should say. One pile would not be sufficient; it would require three.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said there were two courses open: the money required might come out of loan and afterwards recouped out of revenue, or it might come out of the vote for minor works, and, if necessary, the amount might be included in the Supplementary Estimates. So far as the Estimates proper were concerned, they had now come to the end of their tether, and he was not at all prepared to say that the amount required for these piles could be placed on the Estimates for 1884. He did not suppose, however, that the House would refuse to ratify the expenditure, if incurred with its sanction.

Mr. RANDELL supported the motion. The accident referred to was not the first one that had occurred at this bridge. A steamer sank there on one occasion, and there had been other narrow escapes. These piles ought to have been provided long ago, and he was glad to learn that the Government intended proceeding with the work at once.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): I will do my best to meet the difficulty.

The motion was then put and passed.

GOLD MINING REGULATIONS.

MR. MARMION, in accordance with notice, moved that the regulations for gold mining placed upon the table of the House by the Colonial Secretary be referred to a select committee, consisting of the Hon. M. Fraser, Hon. John Forrest, Mr. Grant, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Burt, and, with leave, Mr. Carey, Mr. Randell, and the mover.

Motion agreed to.

SWAN RIVER REGULATIONS REPEAL BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

ESTIMATES, 1884.

The House then went into committee for the further consideration of the Estimates for 1884.

Land Tilles Department, Item £995:

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Medical Department, Item £8,988:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) referring to the item "Lunatic Asylum, £2,500," said the question of the transfer of this establishment was now under the consideration of the Government, based upon a resolution of the House, and, inasmuch as the Government had not yet been able to take any steps to carry into effect what the House had proposed, this sum was intended for appropriation with a view to bringing the whole subject before the Council next session.

MR. MARMION asked whether it was proposed to appoint another nurse as recommended by the commission?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): That will be provided out of this lump sum; but in order to provide the warders with uniform I have to move that a sum of £50 be added to the Estimates for this purpose, as the money will probably be required before the House meets again. I have also to ask to add £100 for a Resident Medical Officer at the Gascoyne—an appointment which I hope we may be able to make.

These votes were agreed to, and a sum of £9,138 granted to the Medical Department.

Harbor and Light Department, Item £4,395:

The claims of the Harbor Master and his assistant, at Albany, to an increase

of salary were brought under the notice of the Government by the member for the district, in view of the proposed general rise in the salaries of public officers next year; and the claims of the Port Pilot at Fremantle were put forward by Mr. Marmion.

MR. SHENTON called attention to the dangerous condition of the boats in use at Rottnest, for pilot purposes; and, on the hon. member's suggestion, it was agreed to amalgamate the vote for "Beacons and Buoys" with the vote for the "Repair and Purchase of Boats," so as to admit of a new boat being purchased for the pilot service,—unless it should be found that some other arrangement may be made to supply the department with another boat, in lieu of the one at present in use. The hon. member asked for some explanation as to the meaning of the increased vote asked for the Harbor Master's crew at Fremantle, which was nearly £180 more than the vote for the current year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the Harbor Master had recommended that there should be at least three more men, also that the crew should be paid at the rate of £6 a month instead of £5 10s., and that the services of a lad should be obtained. These proposals had been partly met by the present arrangement.

MR. CAREY pointed out that a select committee had recommended there should be no increase in the staff of this department, in view of the proposed reorganisation of the service.

MR. SHENTON thought it might be found that with the reorganisation of the department every necessary change might be effected without further expense.

MR. CAREY: If we vote this money we may depend that these extra men will remain on the staff, and as a member of the select committee I certainly must oppose it.

MR. MARMION assumed that the reason for the increase of the staff was the fact that two boats often required to be manned, one going to Rockingham.

The departmental vote was then put and passed.

Judicial Department, Item £14,662:

MR. CAREY called attention to the small salary received by the Sheriff—a

very responsible office. Many years ago the salary was greater than it was now, when the duties and responsibilities of the position were nothing to what they were at present. He hoped the claims of this officer would be taken into consideration by the Government, when drafting their scheme for a general increase of salaries.

MR. SHENTON said he noticed it was proposed to raise the salary of the stipendiary magistrate for the North District from £415 to £465. As the House had decided that all claims to an increase of salary should be deferred until next year, he saw no reason why an exception should be made in favor of this officer. He therefore moved that the item be reduced by £50.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the proposed increase had been made on the recommendation of the late Governor (Sir William Robinson), who considered that, in view of the rising importance of the district, the distance which this officer was removed from headquarters, thereby increasing his responsibilities, the expense of living in the district which was vastly greater than in the more southern portions of the colony,—in view of these considerations, His Excellency considered that it would be only an act of justice to the officer holding this position, irrespective of the person who occupied the office, that he should be placed more on a par with other stipendiary magistrates. At Kimberley the salary was £500; at Champion Bay £535, and at Albany £510; whereas in the North District the salary was only £415, and it was now proposed to increase it by £50,—not in the interest of any particular officer holding the position but in view of the importance of the office, and the other considerations he had already named.

MR. SHENTON said the office of Government Resident at Champion Bay was held by the senior Resident in the colony. The salary at Albany was raised owing to the heavy expenditure which the Government Resident there was put to in entertaining visitors,—and very properly raised. But it seemed strange that a junior officer transferred to the Northern Residency should receive such consideration, compared with his predecessor in office, who had to put up with

all the drawbacks and discomforts of a young settlement, and who was an old and valuable public servant. He thought the promotion of this junior officer would have been quite sufficient reward for his past services, without increasing the salary attached to the office.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members seemed to think so much of the individual holding an office rather than of the office itself. The present holder of this office might not be there at the end of the year, and hon. members must acknowledge that in view of the rising importance of the district there ought to be some inducement for a good man to go there.

MR. GRANT said it appeared to him that this rise in the salaries of our public servants went very much on the principle of kissing—by favor. The predecessor of the present occupant of the office was looked upon as the patriarch of the district, the father of the settlement; but now a junior officer was sent there and the Government at once became alive to the necessity for increasing the salary attached to the office. It might be said it was inconsistent on his part as the representative of the district to oppose the proposed increase, but for his own part he failed to see it.

MR. CAREY was entirely in accord with the hon. member for Toodyay in this matter. There were plenty of other deserving officers who had received promises of an increase, but who had found that the promises of Governors were too much like pie-crust. He saw no reason whatever why this particular officer should be singled out for an increase, when the House and the Government had mutually agreed to defer the question of salaries until next session. He thought the salary in this instance was ample, under the circumstances.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) presumed that the former holder of the office had never asked for an increase, or, at any rate, had never pressed the Government on the subject. That was not the case now. They found the present occupant of the office requesting an increase, and, he thought, showing good grounds for preferring the request. He considered this the most important Residency in the colony, and the most responsible, seeing

that the Magistrate was so completely isolated from head quarters, and called upon to act entirely upon his own responsibility. Because we did not pay any more in the past than £415 was no reason why, if the claim was a just one, we should not pay more now.

MR. WITTENOOM would oppose the increase on the same ground as he had opposed other increases,—the promise made that the whole question of salaries would be dealt with next year.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), without going into the general question of whether it was or was not desirable that particular officers should have their salaries increased at the present moment or next session, he desired—as this was a matter that had come under his own notice—to say a few words. Even in his own short experience of the colony he had found that the Magistrate of this district exercised very important duties,—not only duties usually performed by other magistrates, but duties also connected with the pearl shell fisheries; and he might say, so far as his own personal experience had gone—without wishing in any way to compare him with other magistrates—that this officer was a most efficient and trustworthy officer. If the committee should think fit to vote him this increase, he was sure it would be given to a most deserving officer, and, so far as he was personally concerned in the working of the department of which this gentleman was a member, he should say that the outlay would be well bestowed.

MR. BROWN said it was his intention to vote against it, on the present occasion, on the same grounds as he had the other evening opposed the proposed increase to the Colonial Treasurer, although next year he should be prepared, when the general scheme of increased salaries came before the House, to support this increase,—if he should be of the same opinion then as now. He did not think the proposed salary at all too high.

MR. SHENTON'S amendment to reduce the vote by £50 was then put, and, a division being called for, there appeared—

Ayes	12
Noes	4
Majority for	8

AYES.

Mr. Brown
Mr. Carey
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Glyde
Mr. Grant
Mr. Higham
Mr. McRae
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Randall
Mr. Venn
Mr. Wittenoom
Mr. Shenton (Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. A. P. Hensman
Hon. J. H. Thomas
Hon. J. Forrest
Hon. M. Fraser (Teller.)

The amendment was therefore carried.

MR. MARMION advocated the claims of the Resident Magistrate of Fremantle to a higher salary. The gentleman who held that office had occupied it for the last fifteen years, and he believed had never had a rise—certainly not for the last ten years. A great deal had been said about important duties performed by other magistrates, but he thought he might assert without fear of contradiction that there was no magistrate in the colony who had more important duties to discharge than the Fremantle Resident, with the numerous cases of maritime interest which arose in the principal seaport of the colony. This officer did not even get forage allowance as other magistrates did, and most of them had very good residencies found for them as well, whereas this officer had neither forage allowance nor house allowance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that when a vacancy occurred some time ago at Perth, the Police Magistracy of the Metropolitan district, which was worth £500, was offered to this gentleman, who, however, expressed his desire to remain where he was. He was sure it would afford him much pleasure to submit this officer's claims to the consideration of His Excellency, with others, when the time arrived for doing so.

MR. BROWN asked if there was any necessity for the item "Clerk to Magistrate, Kimberley, £160"? So far as he could judge of the duties to be performed up there, it was absolutely unnecessary to provide the Magistrate with a clerk. All the clerical work that would be required to be done there for some time to come might very well be performed by the Government Resident himself, who he did not suppose was too high and mighty to do good service to his country. He would ask what duties

this clerk was expected to perform for this £160 a year?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that, when the Magistrate was appointed for this district, that officer himself insisted upon having a clerk attached to his office, and the question was submitted to the Finance Committee, who concurred as to the necessity of giving him a clerk, and who did not consider the salary proposed too high.

MR. GRANT could not understand what necessity there could be for a clerk in the Kimberley district for some years to come. It was a very bad policy to appoint these officers to billets where there was nothing for them to do. The Government Resident at the North, who had ten times more clerical work to perform than this Kimberley Magistrate could possibly have, was for years without any clerical assistance.

MR. BROWN said it appeared to him this clerk would only be a sort of private secretary to the Magistrate. There could be no official work for him to do. He could quite understand the Magistrate himself wishing to have an educated young gentleman as his companion in this lonely district, but so far as clerical work went he thought the Magistrate might do it himself. He should therefore move that the item be struck out.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) pointed out that this officer would not only be a clerk to the Magistrate, but also postmaster, tide-waiter, meteorological observer, registrar of births, deaths, and marriages, and also storekeeper.

MR. SHENTON thought that so long as we appointed a Magistrate for the district we must give him a clerk.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) was sorry to see some hon. members showing so little faith in this splendid district. This, he hoped, was only the germ of the Government establishment which we would have to establish there.

MR. BROWN said he did not intend to press his amendment. He understood that a clerk at Carnarvon would be necessary, in view of the establishment of a Local Court there, and possibly there might be some excuse for this other appointment. But he would remind the Government that when the House con-

sented to give £500 a year to this Magistrate, it was not contemplated that he should have a clerk.

MR. MARMION had no recollection that it was understood by the House that this Magistrate was to perform his own clerical work. As a rule he would be itinerating about the district, possibly hundreds of miles from where he had his office, and it would be absolutely necessary there should be somebody there to represent the Government.

MR. CAREY certainly had no recollection that it was understood there was to be no clerk attached to this Magistracy. He thought in view of the large revenue derived from this district and the large expenditure contemplated in the way of surveys, etc., the least we could do was to provide the Government Resident with a clerk. He was sure it was never intended by the House that the Magistrate should also do duty as tide-waiter, postmaster, registrar of births, and the other multifarious duties mentioned by the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) thought, unless they were going to neutralise and destroy the usefulness of the Magistrate in the district, it was absolutely necessary he should have a clerk.

MR. BROWN hoped the Government would have the courage of their convictions in this matter, and provide a clerk also for the Magistrate at the Gascoyne, where there was twenty times as much work as in the Kimberley district. He had no wish to press his amendment upon the committee, and would with leave withdraw it.

The vote for the Judicial Department was then agreed to.

Police Department, Item £24,563 2s. 6d.:

MR. CAREY expressed his surprise at the new item under the head of "Sub-Inspectors, two at £190—£380." It was not long ago since the Superintendent of Police had recommended that these offices should be abolished.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he could not do better than refer the hon. member, for the explanation he sought, to the report of the Superintendent of Police placed on the table this session, which accounted for the appearance of this item on the Esti-

mates. Referring to the change of title of senior sergeants to sub-inspectors, the Superintendent pointed out that the sub-inspector of Water Police at Fremantle having been invalided, and being unable to resume his duties, he (the Superintendent) had seized the opportunity of recommending to His Excellency the Governor a change in the organisation of the Police Force (land and water) at Fremantle, which would prove very beneficial to the public service, viz.:—that the posts of Sub-Inspector of Water Police, of Corporal of the Land Police, and of Detective Corporal should be abolished, and that in lieu there should be one additional regular police constable, and that the whole force (Land and Water) should be placed under the immediate charge of one officer, who should also have the charge of the Rockingham, Mandurah, and Pinjarrah police stations. This arrangement was approved by His Excellency, who conferred on this officer the rank of Sub-Inspector. His Excellency at the same time conferred the same rank, without any additional salary, on the Senior Sergeant in charge of the Metropolitan Police and Detective Department, an old and experienced officer. These changes, the Superintendent said, would effect a saving of £5 per annum under the head of salaries, and he felt confident that the possibility of attaining the rank of Sub-Inspector would be a strong incentive to the members of the force to learn their duties and to discharge them properly. He had to move that the item No. 6 be increased by £185, owing to a clerical error; also an increase of £125 in item No. 12, in view of an officer being moved up another grade.

These increases were agreed to

MR. SHENTON moved that item No. 14 be reduced by £100:

Agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved an addition of £36 for a native constable (item 19).

Agreed to.

MR. SHENTON asked for some explanation as to the item "Uniform Clothing, £500," which appeared for the first time on the Estimates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) referred the hon. member to the report of the Superintendent of

Police, who, referring to this subject, said: "Having to pay for their uniform is a heavy tax on the members of the police force in this colony. The commonest laborer, who can wear anything he pleases, can command wages at least 5s. a day, while the police constable, who barely gets that sum on joining, is obliged not only to provide himself with summer and winter uniform, but always to appear respectably dressed when in plain clothes." In lieu of any increase of salary, the Superintendent recommended that uniform, on a fixed scale, be supplied to the men gratis, and that the members of the Detective Department, who, for obvious reasons, had to appear in plain clothes, should receive an allowance of £5 per annum instead of uniform. This the Superintendent estimated could be done for a sum of £500 per annum, and hence the appearance of this item on the Estimates.

MR. CAREY expressed his gratification at seeing the item placed on the Estimates. He had himself moved in the matter last year, and he was glad to find the Superintendent following it up. The same thing was done in all the other colonies. While on the subject of the Police, he would call attention to the very small salary received by the chief clerk attached to this department, which was considerably less than that of the chief clerk connected with any other department of the service, though the position was one requiring the exercise of great care, and a very trustworthy position altogether.

The vote for the Police Department, £24,809 2s. 6d., was then put and passed.

Gaol Department, Item £7,504:

MR. MARMION said the warders employed at the Perth Prison had a cause for complaint. They had been promised a gradual increase up to £120, but they had received no increase for the last year or two, nor were they proposed to have any increase now.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that in future these warders would not have to pay for their uniforms. Their case would be considered when the question of salaries came on the board.

The vote was then put and passed.

Rottneft Prison Department, Item £4,172:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the following new item be added: "Uniform for Warders, £50." It was proposed to place the warders on the island on the same footing as other warders and the police as regards providing them with uniform.

MR. SHENTON called attention to the great increase which was taking place in the vote for this establishment. It was just double what it was in 1881. The question arose whether some fresh arrangement could not be made for utilising the labor of the native prisoners on the mainland. He believed it would save the colony a large amount of expense, while at the same time it would benefit the districts where the natives were employed, in road-making, or other useful public work. He hoped the Government would, during the recess, take this matter into their consideration.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said His Excellency contemplated a Commission immediately after the rising of the House to take the whole question into its consideration, and, although this vote was now taken, it might possibly be necessary before next session to make some other arrangements.

MR. CAREY said the Government already had a vote to carry them over the present year, and whatever fresh arrangement was made, he hoped it would not be a continuance of the present system of management, which was not at all satisfactory,—unless the establishment was intended to serve as a graveyard. He was informed, although some improvement had taken place in the health of the prisoners since the Governor and the doctors had visited the island, that the condition of the natives was by no means satisfactory, and the sooner the Commission was appointed the better. He had representations made to him by letter, as to the condition of affairs on the island—representations so strong that he should not like to repeat them in that House. They would rather startle hon. members. He noticed an item here of £90 put down for transport. He was informed that the contractor for this service was the Superintendent of the island, although the contract was not taken out in his name. He believed it was the

Superintendent's agents who paid the men employed in the boat, and he knew for a fact it was the Superintendent's boat that performed the service. There were many matters connected with the management of the island that required very strict investigation, and the sooner it was done the better.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that since the return of His Excellency from Rottneft, and the medical officer, he was told that daily reports by heliograph were made by the Superintendent to the Colonial Surgeon at Fremantle, who advised daily as to the treatment of the sick natives, and who paid weekly visits to the island. Everything that could be done to improve the condition of the natives was being done by the Government.

MR. MARMION said it was always unpleasant to listen to innuendoes, especially when directed against some unfortunate head of a department, who was not present to reply to charges thus made, behind his back. It was within the knowledge of hon. members that attacks had recently been made in one of the local newspapers upon the management of this prison, and the hon. member for the Vasse had thought proper to repeat these attacks, if not directly at any rate by innuendo. The hon. member must be aware that the Government of the colony had taken steps to ascertain the truth or the falsehood of these statements, not only through the means of their own officers, but also by a Commission, who had visited and inspected the island, and inquired into the truth of the allegations made by the newspaper referred to, and what had been the result? It had been found that the charges were utterly groundless. [MR. CAREY: No, no.] He thought they might fairly assume they had been proved to have been groundless.

MR. CAREY: Why, then, propose to appoint another Commission?

MR. MARMION said he understood the Commission was to be appointed to ascertain whether it would not be advisable to alter the present system of employing the native prisoners, or whether it would not be wise to discontinue the Rottneft establishment altogether. So far as his own knowledge went of the Superintendent in charge, he

was, he believed, a most careful, painstaking, and trustworthy officer. Had the Government not found him so, he would not have held the office, as he had done, for so many years. He was a man of means when he joined the service, and having invested those means in property had prospered; and he was afraid his prosperity had made some people envious of the position he now held. It was evident from the attacks made upon him in the columns of the newspaper referred to that he had made some enemies; but, as a public officer, he had simply to bear these attacks, strengthened by the fact that upon investigation they had proved to have been groundless. As to the palky allegation that it was his boat which had the contract for transport, surely there was no harm in that, seeing that it was not the Superintendent himself who had the letting of the contract; it was tendered for publicly, and, if his tender was the lowest, there could be nothing wrong in his getting the contract.

Mr. CAREY said the hon. member for Fremantle sought to place himself on a pedestal above all his fellow-members, none of whom, it would appear, could be actuated, like himself, with honorable motives, in exposing abuses: they were simply actuated by envy or malice. [Mr. MARMION: I did not allude to the hon. member at all.] So far as the Superintendent was concerned, he believed that personally he was a friend of his, but at the same time he had reason to suppose that the information given to him was correct, and he had therefore considered it his duty to mention it.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said if these natives were put to work on the mainland they would have to work in chains, and he did not think hon. members would be inclined to sanction that sort of treatment, in this nineteenth century. At Rottneest they were allowed to go about with less restraint than they possibly could if they were away from the island; and they had now some of that freedom which they were accustomed to in their natural state. He thought a great deal more had been made of the epidemic that had broken out amongst them than there was any occasion for. He believed the percentage of deaths on the island for many years past had not been at all great,

and this epidemic had attacked other natives besides those confined on the island. He thought the great objection to Rottneest was that the cost of maintaining the natives there was so expensive, while, on the other hand, their labor was not made so reproductive as it might be. If these natives were to be employed on public works in the Northern Districts we should have to incur a very large expenditure for supervision, and to work them under such restraints that he was afraid very little good would be got out of them.

Mr. WITTENOOM said no doubt they would have to be worked in chains, but, for his own part, he saw no severity in working these natives in chains. No doubt a feeling had got abroad of late years that it was something dreadful to chain a native; but it was not thought so fifteen years ago, when they used to work on the public roads. It was absurd to give away to sentiment when dealing with these blacks, and, if we wished to make good use of their labor, on the mainland, they must be worked in chains. They used to do good work in the early days of the colony, and he believed it would be a great saving of expense if we did away with Rottneest altogether.

Mr. CROWTHER thought there were other ways of utilising the labor of these natives without chaining them. He believed Mr. Paddy had offered to take any number of them on his stations at Yatheroo and Dandaragan, agreeing to keep them for three years, treat them well, and return them to their own districts at the end of their term. [Hon. J. FORREST: That would not be a prison.] It would be a model prison. It would be a more beneficial system of treating them than that under which they were now treated.

The vote for Rottneest Prison (£4,222) was then put and passed.

Printing Department, Item, £1,998:

Agreed to, without comment.

Inspection of Sheep Department, Item £2,062:

Mr. McRAE said he noticed it was proposed to increase the number of Inspectors to eight, one of which was for the Northern District. Hitherto they had done without a paid Inspector in that district, relying upon the services of

honorary Inspectors, and as there had been no scab there for the last 14 years, he thought they could not do better than continue that system. With regard to the new Inspector proposed for the Kimberley district, there had already been some discussion on that subject, and he thought it would be only fair to the settlers to have the same opportunity of dealing with scab as the Northern District settlers had, without having to pay an Inspector. He begged to move that the first item ("Eight Inspectors at £150—£1,200") be reduced by £300.

MR. MARMION said he was not in a position to say whether that would be acceptable to those who had stock in the Kimberley district. There was a slight difference between that district and the North, where they had no scab. Unfortunately for Kimberley they had that disease there, and it seemed to him absolutely necessary to empower some paid official to deal with it. Who appointed these honorary Inspectors? [Mr. McRAE: The Government.] He thought it would be a wise thing at any rate to vote this money, until it was ascertained that scab had been eradicated in the district. Once the districts were declared clean, let the salary cease, and the settlers appoint their own honorary Inspector.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the Government had considered it their duty to make provision to meet the difficulty caused by the appearance of scab in this new district, where it had been reported to them it had broken out in several flocks. He thought the committee should hesitate before it struck out the vote for Kimberley.

MR. SHENTON considered it most important that immediate steps be taken to prevent scab making headway in this new country. He would suggest the temporary appointment of a Special Inspector, as proposed for the district east of Toodyay, whose duties and pay would cease as soon as the disease was eradicated.

MR. CROWTHER would be inclined to think that the hon. members for the North (Mr. McRae and Mr. Grant) would know better what was required for these districts than any other hon. member, and if they were prepared to

accept the responsibility of striking out these votes for the Northern and Kimberley districts, let them do so. Of course if a paid Inspector were appointed a contribution would have to be levied.

MR. VENN thought the money might be allowed to remain on the Estimates, so that, in the event of an honorary Inspector being available and prepared to act, the Government should have some funds at their disposal. He thought it would be desirable to provide against such a contingency as the scab spreading.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) did not think the disease was likely to spread much in the Kimberley district, where the flocks were so widely scattered, and where they might rely every care and precaution would be taken by the settlers themselves in their own interests. At the same time he thought it would be well to have these votes on the Estimates. The settlers of the North District were influenced possibly in some degree by *kudos*, in keeping their flocks free from scab, and, moreover, the character of the country was favorable to its eradication, so that the duties of the honorary Inspector were very light, every settler being in his own person an honorary Inspector. Probably the same results might be attained in the Kimberley district, but he thought it would be an imprudent thing to strike this vote off the Estimates.

MR. GRANT said some hon. members seemed to think that all that was necessary to be done for the eradication of scab was to appoint a paid Inspector; but what had been the result in those districts where paid Inspectors had been employed for years past? Had scab disappeared from those districts? No, nor was it likely to, under the present system. He was sure that in a small isolated community like Kimberley, every settler would combine to stamp out the disease, and, for his own part, he saw no necessity for appointing a paid Inspector. Others, however, who seemed to be interested in the district seemed to think otherwise, and perhaps the hon. member (Mr. McRae), in deference to their wishes, would withdraw that part of his amendment which related to the Kimberley Inspector, leaving the settlers in the North to deal with the scab in their own way.

MR. McRAE said he would amend his motion, and move that the item be reduced by £150, instead of £300, as originally proposed.

The amended motion was then put.

MR. MARMION said he was as anxious as anyone that the eradication of scab in the Kimberley district should be accomplished without saddling the settlers with expense, but it seemed to him unreasonable to expect it, and he was glad to find that, so far as that district was concerned, the hon. member had withdrawn his motion.

The amendment to reduce the item by £150 was then adopted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said as the committee had struck off an Inspector, it would be unnecessary to provide him with a forage allowance. He had therefore to move that the item "Forage allowances, £800," be reduced by £100.

This was agreed to, and the vote, as amended, passed.

Educational and Registry Department,
Item £10,190:

Agreed to, without discussion.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again next day.

MESSAGE (No. 31)—REPLYING TO ADDRESSES: APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR OF WORKS AND DRAFTSMAN: ESTIMATES CLOSED.

THE SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"In reply to the Address of the Honorable the Legislative Council No. 52, of the 31st ultimo, the Governor informs the Council that he will request a vote of £300 on the Estimates of 1884, to defray the cost of a Police station on the Upper Murchison. The sum indicated by the Council was £500, but the pressure of other expenditure makes it necessary to study economy; and it is hoped that £300 may suffice to provide what is requisite, at all events during 1884.

"In order to carry out the wish expressed in the Address of the Council No. 53, of the 31st ultimo, the Governor will place upon the 1884 Estimates a sum of £1000 to subsidise a line of

steamers between Fremantle and Singapore, and a sum of £600 as a bonus to a line of steamers between London and Fremantle.

"The Governor will also comply with the request contained in the Honorable Council's Address No. 46, of the 30th ultimo, respecting the propagation of the edible oyster, and has placed £50 on the Estimates of 1884 for that purpose.

"The increase of the public works now annually provided for has, in the Governor's opinion, made it requisite to provide some further assistance in the Public Works Office. The Council will therefore be asked to vote a salary of £300, and travelling expenses of £100, for an Inspector of Works and Draftsman.

"These new items of expenditure will bring the charges for 1884 within a few hundred pounds of the estimated revenue, whereas the Governor had hoped to be able to preserve a margin of £2000. A desire to meet the wishes of the Council in every possible manner has been the cause of this sacrifice of the intended surplus. It will be impossible, however, to place any further sums upon the Estimates for 1884, which must now be considered as closed, so far as the Government is concerned.

"Government House, Perth, 4th September, 1883."

MR. SHENTON, referring to the paragraph relating to the subsidy to a line of steamers between London and Singapore, said His Excellency had apparently misunderstood the address which the House had adopted. What was proposed was to give a bonus of £150 each trip, which would be £1200 a year, and not £600 as mentioned in His Excellency's message. This was clearly a mistake, and ought to be rectified at once. £600 would be enough for this year, but some provision would have to be made for next year, if only that amount were placed on the Estimates.

MR. BROWN said the remaining moiety might be placed on the Supplementary Estimates.

MR. SHENTON moved that His Excellency's Message be considered in committee now.

This was agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. BROWN moved, "That this Council having considered His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 34, respectfully expresses its satisfaction at finding that His Excellency acquiesces in its desire that a subsidy of £1,000 per annum shall be offered to any firm that will undertake to run a line of steamers from Fremantle to Singapore; and that a subsidy of £150 per trip, each way, shall be offered as a bonus to a line of steamers between London and Fremantle. This House observes that it is His Excellency's intention to place upon the Estimates for this purpose half the sum that may be required for the latter service, and it will be prepared, when considering the Supplementary Estimates next year, to vote the remaining moiety."

Agreed to, without discussion.

MESSAGE (No. 35)—LILLY & CO.'S PROPOSAL RE SUPPRESSION OVERLAND MAIL SERVICE TO ALBANY.

THE SPEAKER notified the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor would be glad to receive the opinion of the Honorable the Legislative Council on the enclosed communication, dated the 3rd instant, from Messrs. Lilly and Company, the Agents of the Adelaide Steamship Company.*

"Messrs. Lilly and Company raise the question whether weekly steamers to and from Albany, so timed as to forward without delay the Colonial and English mails, would justify the suppression of the present expensive overland mail service, and the substitution thereof of an economical equipment sufficient for the local postal needs of the districts traversed.

"Government House, Perth, 4th September, 1883."

*See Printed Paper, A 21.

The Message was ordered to be considered next day.

TELEPHONIC EXCHANGE: MR. B. C. WOOD'S PROPOSAL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) laid upon the table a communication from Mr. B. C. Wood, of

Fremantle, relative to the establishment of a Telephonic Exchange, and moved that it be taken into consideration next day.

Agreed to.

IMMIGRATION BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), with leave, without notice, moved the first reading of a Bill intituled an Act to promote the further Settlement of the Colony of Western Australia by the establishment of a Board of Immigration and of an Immigration Fund.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

The House adjourned at half-past five o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 5th September, 1883.

Land Regulations—Tramway between Cossack and Roebourne—Message (No. 36): Replying to Addresses—Transfer of Land Act, 1874: Amendment Bill: first reading—Estimates: further considered in committee—Wild Cattle Nuisance Act, 1871, Amendment Bill: second reading—Dog Bill: third reading—Aboriginal Native Offenders Bill: third reading—Imported Labor Registry Bill: recommitted—Furness Judge's Salary Bill: in committee—Shipping and Pilotage Acts Amendment Bill: in committee—Rabbits Bill: in committee—Private Bonded Warehouses Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

LAND REGULATIONS: RIGHT TO CUT TIMBER ON CROWN LANDS.

MR. CAREY asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands, "If he would have printed Circulars sent to all the Police Stations in the Central Districts of the colony, notifying the alteration in the Land Regulations proclaimed by His Excellency the Governor 13th July, 1883, giving per-